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1 November 1958

Brig. Gen. A. J. Goodpaster, Jr. Staff Secretary The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Andy:

The attached memorandum is responsive to the President's question with regard to the Cuban Navy and the supply lines of the Castro forces. I leave it to your discretion whether you feel it is worthwhile to pass it on to the President.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles Director

Att:

AWD/E

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MEMORANDUE FOR: The President

SUBJECT:

(1) Organization of the Cuban Navy

(2) Sources of supply for the Cuban rebels

REPARENCE:

National Security Council Briefing,

30 October 1958

capability of maintaining efficient patrols along Cuba's long coast line. It has intercepted a few rebel expeditions, largely by accident. The Mavy has no major combat vessels. There are three destroyer escorts (DE's) and one motor gunboat. There are 49 other vessels—small patrol, and service craft. Most navy ships are normally stationed at Mavana, but naval facilities also exist at Mariel about 20 miles west of Mavana, Cienfuegos on the south coast of Las Villas Province, Santiago de Cuba, and Batabano on the southern coast of Mavana Province. The navy was "purged" following the unsuccessful naval revolt at Cienfuegos in September 1957 and has played a relatively minor role in the government's operations against the rebel movement. However, naval vessels maintain

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intermittent coastal patrols, and on 24 October two vessels landed troops near the US government-owned nickel installation at Nicaro on the north coast of Griente.

2. The Fidel Castro rebel movement has no wellorganized and regular supply line. Small arms and
assumination captured in battle or in quick raids on
government military outposts constitute the most dependable source of supply, augmented by clandestine air
shipments from abroad. Shipments by sea, important
during the early months of Castro's two-year-old
revolution, recently have been curtailed. Nost of them

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Trucks, jeeps, and automobiles are "borrowed"

from local sources, many of them US businesses or

individuals. Food and clothing are supplied largely by

residents of the areas under rebel control and by

pro-rebel organizations throughout the island.

ALLEN W. DULLES

N. S. A.

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